

REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 9, 2005 has been received and carefully studied.

By the accompanying amendment, claims 12-15 have been renumbered claims 11-14, since claim 11 was previously inadvertently omitted. The dependencies have been amended accordingly. Claim 4 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

The Examiner newly rejects claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 12, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Vits, U.S. Patent No. 4,308,984.

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

By way of background, Vits '984 is a positive pressure nozzle that does not create a negative suction or draw down force needed to hold the web from one side only. Accordingly, the Vits '984 nozzle must have a top and bottom nozzle opposing one another to properly function, unlike the foil of the present invention.

The Examiner states that the Vits air foil has a primary slot 8 and a second discharge slot 3 spaced and stepped down from the primary slot. The Examiner further states that Vits discloses a second web support surface (above 3) downstream of the secondary discharge slot in the direction of web travel. This is incorrect. The surface

above 3 relied upon by the Examiner as the second web support surface is not downstream of the secondary discharge slot in the direction of web travel as required by the instant claims; it defines the secondary discharge slot 3 and is upstream of both the secondary discharge slot 3 and the primary discharge slot 8. Accordingly, the rejection is clearly improper and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

With reference to claims 2 and 14, the secondary discharge slot 3 of Vits does not discharge air parallel to the web; Vits expressly discloses that the medium is ejected through slot 3 at an oblique angle towards the web.

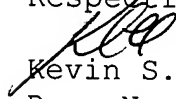
The Examiner rejects claims 12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Vits, U.S. Patent No. 3,763,571.

By the accompanying amendment, the limitations of claim 15 have been incorporated into claim 12 (now renumbered as claim 11). It is believed that the amendment overcomes the rejection.

The amendment is only now being made in order to correct minor errors in the claims, and to reduce the issues for purposes of appeal.

Reconsideration, entry of the amendment, and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin S. Lemack

Reg. No. 32,579

176 E. Main Street - Suite 7

Westboro, Massachusetts 01581

TEL: (508) 898-1818